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 جوردان تلیمز یومیة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

جوزدان تليمز يومية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الرأي.

CAIRO (AP) — Extremists on Monday renewed their threat against foreigners and claimed responsibility for the shooting death of a high-ranking police officer in southern Egypt. The Al Gamaa Al Islamiya said it killed Brigadier Omar Mustafa in Assiut on Sunday to avenge a police raid Feb. 1 on the outskirts of Cairo in which seven suspected radicals were killed. The group again urged foreigners to leave, saying this was their "last ultimatum." The Egyptian capital, however, was given no warning and "it was not only talking about visitors coming West but "Arabs or any other nationality." The statements came in faxes to a Western news agency in Cairo. There was no way to authenticate them. No attack on foreigners has been reported since the threat Feb. 2 urged tourists and foreign investors to leave or risk getting caught in rising violence. While the warnings to foreigners were similar to those issued by Algerian radicals, the violence in Egypt has been far less intense. At least 27 foreigners have been killed in direct attacks in Algeria.

Electronic occupation



Aden and Sanaa exchange charges over plane seizure

Dr. Nidal Hamad, F.A.C.C.

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group is one of

Support for peace wanes as unrest mounts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians were jubilant at the prospect of better lives when the peace process was announced. Not quite five months later, they're again eager to attack Israeli targets and challenge Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

The bitter mood in the Israeli-occupied territories turned blacker Sunday when hickering between Israeli politicians and top generals threatened further delays in achieving Palestinian autonomy.

"Peace is not a theory, it's something that ordinary people need to touch," said Raji Sourani, a lawyer who heads the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law.

There have been some changes since the accord between Israel and the PLO was signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Palestinians could openly raise their flag, an act that used to draw Israeli gunfire. Over 700 Palestinians have been released from Israeli jails and a few streets sealed with barbed wire to prevent stone-throwing have been opened.

But under the original plan, the Israeli army was a start

withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area around Jericho on Dec. 13 and finish withdrawing by April 13. Palestinians were to police the streets and civilian authorities were to assume responsibility for taxation, housing and utilities.

There are no deadlines now. Instead, the process is in Israeli hands. And Israeli officials have noticed a sharp shift in Palestinian attitudes.

"The Palestinian population woke up," an officer responsible for undercover operations told the weekly Al Hamishmar. He could not be identified due to army regulations.

"They thought they would experience a new reality. They know this is not true. So they are resuming the intifada," he added.

The numbers tell why. Since the agreement was signed, 62 Palestinians have died in clashes with Israelis, including six children under the age of 16. In the same period 20 Israeli soldiers and civilians have been killed.

Thousands of Palestinians remain behind bars, some for acts like raising the flag that are no longer illegal. Arrests continue. Over 50,000 Arabs lost jobs in Israel as a security

measure to try to minimise attacks, and more work permits are being confiscated at random.

Israeli subjects entire neighborhoods to power cuts if some residents don't pay bills. Land confiscations have risen sharply, and house demolitions or disruptive searches continue.

Israeli officials have said that the number of Israeli troops in the occupied lands is at one of its highest levels ever. The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has noted a marked rise in the use of undercover operatives.

Israeli officials said such actions are necessary to fight the small cells of peace opponents still organising attacks.

"Alongside the preparations that an agreement will be signed... the pursuit of all perpetrators of terror will continue," Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, said after a PLO underground figure was killed by an undercover squad last week.

Gaza called a three-day strike to protest the killing. Support for the peace process is especially weak among Gaza's 800,000 residents, who are crowded into shantytowns. Gazans expected Israel to



WAY OF LIFE: Palestinian boys throw stones at Israeli soldiers guarding a watch post in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

act differently and the PLO to exert pressure to stop the worst effects of the occupation. Neither happened.

"They are sick and tired of occupation, and that is what I call explosive material," said Mr. Sourani.

A look in figures at what's behind Palestinian discontent since the PLO-Israel peace treaty was signed Sept. 13, 1993 (the first figure comes from Palestinian sources, the second from Israeli sources). N.A. means not available.

40 Palestinians killed in Gaza: 41; 23

Palestinian children (under 16) killed: 6; n.a. Palestinians injured: 616; 201

Houses demolished in occupied lands: 63; 2 Land confiscated from Palestinians: 13,346 acres (or 5,400 hectares); n.a. Palestinians in jail: 14,000; 7,591

Israeli killed: 20; 20 Israeli soldiers injured: n.a.;

151 Israeli civilians injured: n.a.; 42

Sources: Palestinian figures: The Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre, and B'tselem, the Israeli human rights organisation.

Israeli figures: The Israeli military spokesman's office, the Israeli prison authority. Prisoner figures include 4,091 Palestinians held by army and 3,500 held by prison authority.

Hilton closes in Algeria; group claims 70 rivals killed

ALGIERS (AP) — The Hilton Hotel closed Sunday for an indefinite period, the latest victim of a violent campaign against foreigners by Islamic fighters.

The group that threatened expatriates claimed it killed 70 members of a rival armed movement.

The Hilton, which opened in August, closed its doors at noon, six days after a French cameraman was shot to death in the Casbah and his Australian colleague seriously wounded.

Twenty-seven foreigners have been killed since late September, most of them after a Nov. 30 deadline for foreigners to leave set by the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the fighting movements trying to topple the military-backed government.

A statement signed by the Armed Islamic Group, received Sunday by the French

news agency Agence France Presse, said it killed 70 members of the Armed Islamic Movement, considered an umbrella group for numerous fighting cells.

The statement, dated Feb. 5, could not be authenticated. It gave no date for the "executions," which followed a "verdict of the sharia." It was faxed to the news agency and signed from "the state of the Islamic caliphate in Algeria."

There was no mention in official statements from Algerian authorities to signal the killings. Security forces said Sunday that they had killed 13 rebels from Tuesday to Thursday in scattered parts of the country.

The Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular employees in October and some other killings.

Thousands of foreigners have fled since the Nov. 30

deadline. Western embassies have reduced their staff and taken special precautions. The Danish embassy said last week it was transferring its functions to Tunisia.

The Armed Islamic Group statement, which was authentic, would signal that divisions within the armed movement are at the point of no return. It would render even more difficult efforts by Algerian authorities to end two years of violence through dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists.

Some 3,000 people have been killed since the army cancelled January 1992 parliamentary elections to thwart a victory by the Islamic Salvation Front.

Officials have said that "positive contacts" with Islamic Salvation Front representatives are underway.

The Armed Islamic Group has in the past warned against

dialogue, threatening "the worst of deaths" to anyone seeking reconciliation.

The movement is considered close to the Islamic Salvation Front, which has said it is opposed to targeting foreigners.

The statement castigated the chief of the Armed Islamic Movement, Said Mekhloufi, a lieutenant who deserted from the Algerian army, as a "traitor" and "agent of the government." It said Mr. Mekhloufi's group was trying to bring down the Armed Islamic Group in a "plot that coincides with manoeuvres around what is being called dialogue, which we have warned against and which has become a concrete reality."

Islamic Salvation Front officials in exile have in the past dismissed as not serious infighting among the armed groups while admitting differences exist.

20 held in attack on Rafsanjani — report

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian authorities have arrested more than 20 people in last week's alleged assassination attempt against President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a news paper reported Monday.

Iran's information minister, Ali Fallahian, accused Koroush Nik Akhtar and his alleged accomplices of being part of "a clandestine terrorist group," according to the newspaper, Hamshahri.

Mr. Fallahian did not identify the group. Mr. Rafsanjani on Friday suggested the United States and the West were behind the shooting.

Authorities have accused Mr. Akhtar of firing several shots last Tuesday as Mr. Rafsanjani addressed a crowd at the shrine of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini outside Tehran to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Mr. Fallahian claimed members of Mr. Akhtar's group met to discuss their plans on the night prior to the assassination attempt, Hamshahri said. Some Iranians doubt the official version of the shooting, claiming it was stage-managed to boost Mr. Rafsanjani's image at a time when his government is mired in crisis.

Mr. Rafsanjani has come in for worsening criticism in recent months for his failure to revive Iran's moribund economy and improve the living conditions of the country's 60 million people, most of whom live below the poverty line.

With oil prices at a five-year low and Iran's foreign debts estimated at \$30 billion, the country's economic problems seem to be coming to a head.

There have been reports of unrest in many Iranian cities over economic conditions in the past few years.

Riots erupted last Tuesday in the southeastern city of Zahedan where demonstrators clashed with security forces, broke shop windows and burned the Iranian flag. News

reports said the unrest was sparked by reports that authorities had demolished a mosque of the Sunni Muslim minority in the northern city of Mashhad. Reports about the demolition of the mosque were denied by local papers.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected to a second four-year term last August, has been among the country's top leaders since the revolution. He has reportedly survived several assassination attempts.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday the "abhorred attempt on the life of the president" was a plot of "Satanic powers" to eliminate Iranian spiritual leaders.

Ayatollah Khamenei was speaking at the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic. Mr. Rafsanjani was addressing tens of thousands of followers on Tuesday at the start of 10 days of celebration marking the 15th anniversary of the Iranian revolution when five pistol shots were heard.

Witnesses at the time described the shots as faint and probably fired from a small-calibre pistol.

They said the origin of the shots was more than 50 metres from the platform. At least one man was seen being hustled away by security men.

IRNA quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as describing the incident as an abortive assassination attempt and the latest example of plots of Satanic powers to physically eliminate Iranian religious leaders.

"They attempted to strip the Muslim Nation of one of the prominent, efficient and devoted personalities of the Islamic republic, our beloved president," Ayatollah Khamenei said of Mr. Rafsanjani, a cleric himself with the rank of Hajatolislam.

"But thank God this time they were frustrated as in many of their previous plots and treasons," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Killing of witness raises fear among Egyptians

ARAB AL HASWA, Egypt (AP) — The elegantly framed photograph on Sayed Yehia's wall showed him shaking hands with Egypt's top law enforcement official. The happy scene may have cost the 47-year-old automobile dealer his life.

The picture of Mr. Yehia was splashed across newspaper front pages after he captured a suspect in the attempted murder of Prime Minister Atef Sedki. On Friday, Mr. Yehia was shot to death before he could testify at the man's trial.

The slaying raised questions about the government's protection of witnesses and will increase fears among Egyptians already hesitant to get involved in the battle between the government and Islamic radicals.

"We are the ones who stood up to terrorism and we are hit by it now," said Mohammad, Mr. Yehia's younger brother. "Our brother Kamal helped in the arrest, and now we are wondering who is next."

Sayed Yehia was to testify

Saturday in the trial of Salah Saleh and 14 other suspected militants for the November car bombing aimed at Dr. Sedki. Instead he was hurried in this village 40 kilometres north of Cairo.

On Friday night, three suspected militants sprayed Mr. Yehia's auto showroom with automatic rifle fire, killing him along with a customer, an employee and a private guard. A policeman friend visiting Mr. Yehia was shot in the leg.

After Mr. Yehia's funeral Saturday, friends and family complained the government failed to protect him. The Interior Ministry did not issue Mr. Yehia a promised sub-machine gun until almost two weeks after the arrest and guards sent to protect him disappeared after 24 hours, family members said.

Magda, Mr. Yehia's sister, picked up the slain man's one-year-old son and wailed: "This is his baby. The government could not protect the father. After he was killed all the

police came and the armoured cars, but it was too late."

No Interior Ministry spokesman was available for comment. The daily Al Gomhuriya quoted one official as saying undercover guards had been protecting Mr. Yehia. But he added complete protection was impossible and complained that Mr. Yehia endangered himself by keeping his car agency open too late.

Mr. Yehia, a father of four, got involved in the case when he sold the auto later used in the car-bombing. Prime Minister Sedki escaped injury but an 11-year-old girl bystander was killed.

Mr. Yehia tried to arrest the car's buyer, identified as Saleh, when he came back to haggle about money still owed. The man fled, but Mr. Yehia caught him after an 18-kilometre chase in a car.

Mr. Yehia was given a 40,000 Egyptian pound (\$11,000) reward, had his picture taken with Interior Minister Hassan Al Afi, and was

told he would get protection.

His heroism got much publicity as part of the government's campaign to convince the public to inform on extremists.

Gen. Alfi praised Yehia and his brother, telling the Al Akhbar newspaper: "If every one bravely resisted as they have done, it would be the end of terrorism."

Nearly 300 people have been killed in the militants' campaign to displace the secular government with Islamic rule. But many Egyptians fear the militants or see themselves as outsiders in a battle between the extremists and the government.

A cousin, Amir, said people would now be even more afraid to give information to police. Soldiers sent to guard Mr. Yehia's showroom after the slaying nodded in agreement.

"Nobody will dare open their mouths," the brother Mohammad said. "Maybe I and my family will leave the village."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Chateau Des Oliviers
17:45 News in French
18:15 Le Cirque Mondial
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:40 News in Arabic
20:50 The Respected Family
21:30 Mann And Machine
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Cape Rebel
23:15 Night Court

PRAYER TIMES

05:33 Fair
06:43 (Sunrise) Fair
11:50 Dhuhur
14:51 Asr
17:18 Maghreb
18:37 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop, clouds will build up, and rain will fall with winds becoming westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be cloudy with torrid moderate winds becoming southerly, and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 7/14
Amman 11/22
Djessra 4/18
Jordan Valley 12/21

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Raed Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Jihad Zaid 881148
Dr. Bahjat Badr 649362
Dr. Farouq Nour 786680
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 783336
Al Asana pharmacy 671025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Rajid pharmacy 847632

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdall Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

ZARQA:
Dr. Fawzi Hamdallah 903644

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhe, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 664114
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Palestine, Shamsan 664114
Italian, Al-Mubajjar 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)88333
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)21555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
03:55 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:25 Damascus, Amman (RJ)
09:25 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:35 London (RJ)
16:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:35 Paris, Amman (RJ)
17:35 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
03:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
16:45 Rome (AZ)
18:05 Paris, Beirut (AF)
19:45 Beirut (ME)
20:30 Bucharest (RO)
01:15 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:35 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
12:45 Amman, Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Colombo, Singapore (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:50 Vienna (OS)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)
21:00 Aden (YV)
01:30 Bucharest (RO)
02:15 Amsterdam (KL)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:30 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 650/50
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Cabbage 600
Carrot 100/100
Cauliflower 100/60
Clementine 250/200
Cucumbers (large) 140/90
Cucumbers (small) 250/150
Eggplant 100/70
Garlic 150/100
Grape Fruit 220/160
Green beans 700/500
Lemon 170/100
Marrow (large) 140/80
Marrow (small) 250/150
Olives (green) 250/150
Orange 420/100
Onion (dry) 350/150
Onion (wet) 200/150
Pepper (hot) 280/200
Pepper (sweet) 250/200
Potato 120/70
Radish 120/70
Tomato 190/100
Spinach 120/60
String beans 640/500



House condemns Serbian attacks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Monday issued a statement strongly condemning the continued Serbian attacks on the Muslim population of Bosnia and appealed to international organisations, parliaments, the United Nations and human rights groups to help put an end to crimes directed at civilians.

Following is the statement: "The barbaric and painful massacre of our brothers in the city of Sarajevo caused by Serbian shelling that killed and wounded hundreds of defenceless civilians, including children, women and elderly people, is but one more link in a long chain of barbaric acts of aggression against innocent Muslims.

"This attack came while the international community is keeping silent and sullying itself with mere decisions which offer only lip service to the Bosnian people.

"In contrast, the world witnesses the issuance of a spate of United Nations resolutions that are promptly implemented against the Arab people of Iraq, Somalia and Libya.

"The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan, which has been deeply shaken by the massacre in Sarajevo, appeals to those with a genuine conscience in various nations and to world parliaments, the U.N. Security Council and human rights organisations to help stop such crimes and the shedding of innocent people's blood, and to guarantee security for the people of Bosnia whose free will and independence should be respected.

"We call on the world community to severely punish the aggressor Serbs and to promptly lift a siege imposed on Sarajevo and the other Muslim cities in Bosnia.

"We also call on the world community to supply the Bosnians with weapons for self-defence as well as medicine and food.

"We call also for an end to an international ban on weapons supplied to Bosnia to enable the country to repel aggression."



REVIEWING MILITARY EDUCATION: Education Minister Khaled Al Omari (right) Monday meets with the commander of the People's Army, Dr. Omari called for activating the military education programme which is taught at schools around the Kingdom in cooperation with the People's Army command. He said the ministry, through its Student Activities Department, was trying to amend the programme to make it compatible to students' desires and interests. The programme, which was launched three years ago, is now implemented within one week instead of two weeks, the minister said. He said the ministry is currently planning to hold productive programmes for students during the summer holiday (Petra photo)

CARE Australia to finance development projects in south

AMMAN (J.T.) — CARE Australia Monday signed six agreements with voluntary and charitable organisations to help them finance development projects in the Tafleh, Maran and Karak governorates.

CARE representative in Jordan, Joanna Hall, who signed the agreements, said in a statement that the agreements marked the beginning of a programme by CARE to implement numerous projects in Jordan, particularly in the south.

Such projects, she said, include sheep-fattening, water canal maintenance, food processing, establishing a brick factory and an aluminium workshop.

These projects will cost JD66,000 of which CARE will contribute JD 39,185. The balance will come as donations from other sources, said Ms. Hall.

She said in the future CARE plans to fund personnel training and feasibility studies on economic projects for the poor regions.

CARE is a humanitarian, non-profit secular organisation concerned with emergency assistance to people in need and local community development in the spirit of self-help.

For the past two years, CARE Australia has been active in emergency relief projects for Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania through its regional office located in Amman, according to a CARE office statement.

The statement said that CARE has recently become involved in small, local community development projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and hopes to further expand its activities.

Abdul Rahim Salami, deputy secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, attended the signing of the agreements, and later said that the ministry was eager to cooperate closely with international organisations and local voluntary groups to promote community development and help the needy.

He voiced appreciation to CARE Australia for its drive to help the poor families in Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, CARE said that it recently constructed a canal network in Zai, near Salt, at a cost of JD 10,000 and donated JD 15,000 to the displaced Bosnian families living in Amman and JD 10,000 to the Lebanese families whose property was damaged in Israeli raids.

Aqaba palm forest creates 25 jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — The palm tree forest development project in Aqaba, begun in 1992 by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), has created jobs for three agricultural engineers and 22 farmhands, according to a QAF statement.

When QAF undertook to develop the 1,500 dunum forest area for a period of 30 years, its aim was to grow dates which provide nutritional food, to create jobs for local citizens and also expand the green areas in the Aqaba region, said the statement.

QAF has plans to plant 27,000 palm trees in the forest which would produce an estimated 500 tonnes of dates annually, according to the statement.

To date nearly half (700 dunums) of the area involved is planted with date palms.

In addition to these trees, which came from Tunisia, Egypt, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, QAF said it has planted 1,466 citrus trees there as well.

The project has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the trees are irrigated by a drip irrigation system which utilises water pumped from a local artesian well and re-cycled, treated waste water.

The forest will also serve as a research centre for scientists and agricultural engineers and as a public recreational centre in the future, said the QAF statement.

It said all revenues earned from the development of the forest will help finance QAF's numerous projects mainly targeting needy families in the rural regions.



EDUCATION ON WHEELS: The mobile micro computer facility for teaching informatics donated to the Royal Scientific Society by the United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) (Petra photo)

Jordan asks Australia to strengthen role in Kingdom's meat, livestock market

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Talks between the delegation of the Western Australian Ministry of Commerce and Trade, Jordanian businesspersons and counterparts from the public sector Monday first focused on a request by Jordanian officials that Australia expand its imports of phosphate from the Kingdom.

The request was prompted by the need to help adjust the current trade imbalance between the two countries, which at present amounts to \$45 to \$50 million, according to Marwan Awad, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The second major focus of the talks was the Australian's efforts to consolidate and strengthen their already considerable role in Jordan's meat and livestock market.

According to Rudi Ibrahim, the minister of supply, there are currently 120,000 to 120,000 head of Australian livestock in Jordan.

The Australian delegation, headed by Western Australia Deputy Premier and Minister of Commerce Hendy Cowan, Monday visited the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Supply, and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Awad told the delegation that "there is a huge trade deficit between the two countries, and I don't think we can close our eyes to that. It is very important in our view to increase phosphate exports to Australia."

Current exports of Jordanian phosphate to Australia amount to 200,000 tonnes a year, out of an export total of 7 million per year.

Mr. Cowan responded favourably, "Western Australia is a significant user of phosphate and potash fertilisers, and our internal production of these chemicals is limited. Therefore, there is an opportunity to competitively sell your products there," he said.

Mr. Cowan said that his ministry would approach private businesspeople in Western Australia to look into the matter.

Members of the Australian team stressed that Western Australia's commercial relationship with Jordan was a vital one.

"90 per cent of Jordan's exports to Australia find their way to Western Australia. And with a domestic market of only 1.7 million people, we depend on exports. The Middle East market represents to us nearly \$1 billion yearly of business."

Western Australia's main industry, besides herding and agriculture, is mining. It produces 37 per cent of the world's diamonds, 10 per cent of its gold, and 12 per cent of its iron ore, according to delegation members.

They stressed that "a significant issue for us are our exports to Jordan of live sheep," adding that Australian livestock businesses had completed work on breeding a herd of livestock "specifically bred for the Middle East market. These sheep are not saleable in Australia and we have worked very hard to breed them. This trade is vital for us and we don't want to see it lost."

Mr. Awad replied that he was certainly ready to encourage imports of the livestock from Australia.

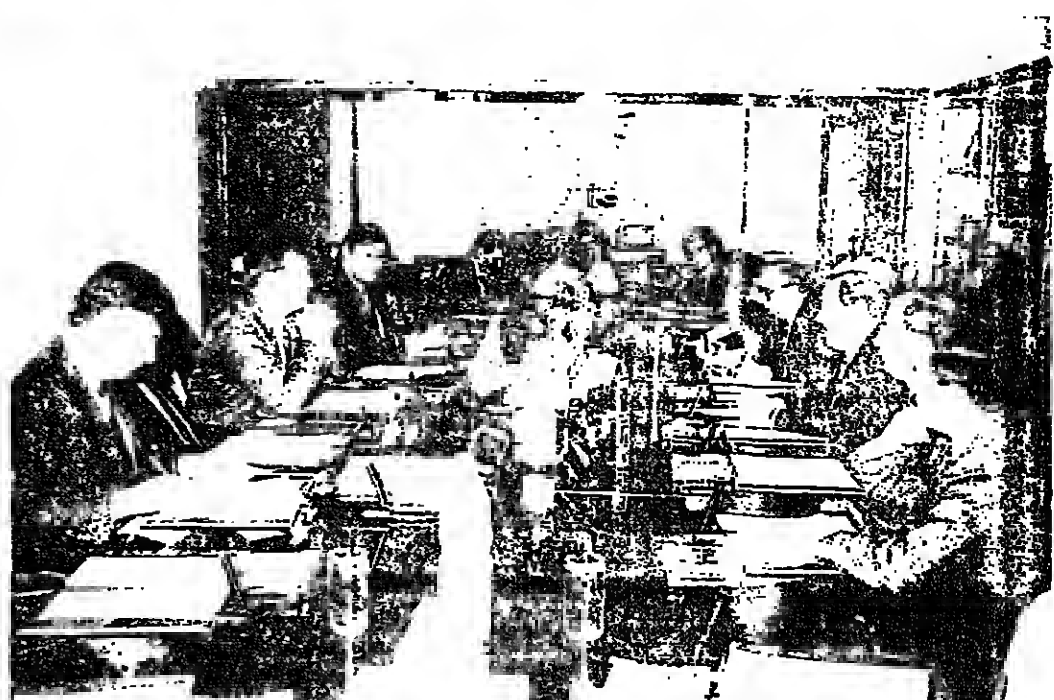
Officials at the Ministry of Supply told the delegation that they were concerned about the current prices Australian shipping merchants were charging to ship livestock to Jordan, which they described as excessive.

They suggested allowing Jordanian shippers to compete for the business to cut down the rates through competition, or opening a special direct shipping line to transport the livestock.

One Australian representative told officials at the Ministry of Supply that "there is a strong possibility with the peace process for Jordan to become a large re-exporter of our products. We see an opportunity for livestock to be shipped here, slaughtered here, processed and then re-exported. There is also an opportunity for us to come and build slaughterhouses and new processing facilities here."

Mr. Cowan said that a number of Australian companies were interested in building such facilities, and were already bidding for contracts to build slaughterhouses in the Aqaba Free Zone and Amman Municipality, where, said one delegation member, "the present slaughterhouse is a very poor facility."

The Australian team left Jordan Monday evening.



Minister of Supply Rudi Ibrahim (third from right) Monday holds talks with a Western Australia delegation headed by Hendy Cowan, deputy premier and minister of commerce (Petra photo)

Archaeology conference to be held in Turin in '94

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Monday said the next International Conference on the Archaeology of Jordan will be held in the Italian city of Turin in 1995.

Archaeologists, historians and other experts from different countries will take part in the conference which is usually held every three years, said Dr. Adwan following a meeting with Italian ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini.

At the meeting, the two officials discussed coordinating Italian and Jordanian efforts to market Jordan's tourist attractions in Italy.

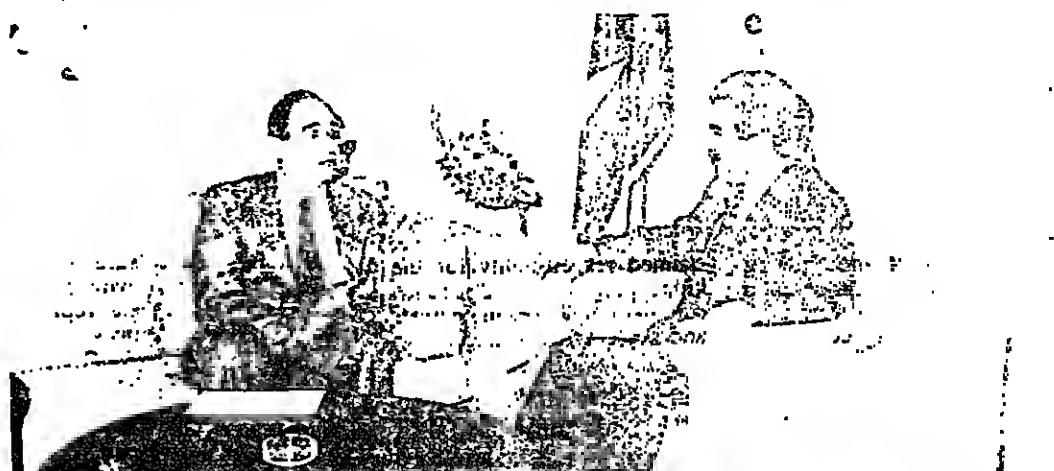
They also reviewed the contributions by the Italian government and specialised institutions to the archaeological excavations and the restoration of archaeological sites in Jordan, said the minister.

In addition, he said the terms of a protocol for the establishment of a Jordanian-Italian archaeology institute will soon be signed by both countries.

The institute is to be headquartered in Amman and financed jointly by both governments, said Dr. Adwan.

According to Dr. Adwan, discussions with Mr. Bettini also covered prospects for increasing Italian assistance to Jordan, especially to the mosaics school in Madaba and the archaeological excavations under way in Jerash and Petra.

Mr. Bettini extended an official invitation to Dr. Adwan to visit Italy and attend the opening of the International Tourism Conference in Milan.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan (right) Monday meets with Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini (Petra photo)

Police search for couple in stabbing of elderly man

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ramtha police are searching for a couple who Sunday allegedly stabbed a 60-year-old man, tied him up, stole JD 5,000 from him and disappeared, police reports said.

The victim, a sheep merchant, identified only as N.M.S., told police he frequently travelled with the couple to Amman and he always carried large sums of money on him.

Preliminary investigations by police indicate that N.M.S. went to the couple's house Sunday to pick the man and woman up to go to Amman to get some paper work done. There, said police reports, the elderly man was stabbed with a knife by the husband. N.M.S. fell to the floor and the man and his wife tied him with a rope, placed a piece of cloth in his mouth and fled the scene.

The victim was discovered later by his 35-year-old son who told police he was passing by the couple's house and heard moaning. The son said he checked through the window and saw his father tied up on the floor.

He said he called his brothers and together they broke down the door and rescued their father.

N.M.S. was taken to Ramtha Military Hospital where he was reported in fair condition.

Police said the couple had rented the house they were living in, and that they disappeared after the attack on the elderly man.

Child dies in car accident

A six-year-old child Sunday was killed and her 15-year-old sister was reported in critical condition when they were run over by a car driven by a 35-year-old man, according to police reports.

Khadijeh Mansour was crossing a street with her older sister Hourieh in one of Amman's suburbs, when they were struck by the car.

When civil defence officers arrived at the scene of the accident, Khadijah was already dead. Her sister was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Hospital sources said the girl is suffering from a head injury, and was listed in critical condition.

19-year-old stabbed to death

A 20-year-old Baqaa male was detained by police after he confessed to killing a 19-year-old male in Baqaa Sunday evening, police reports said.

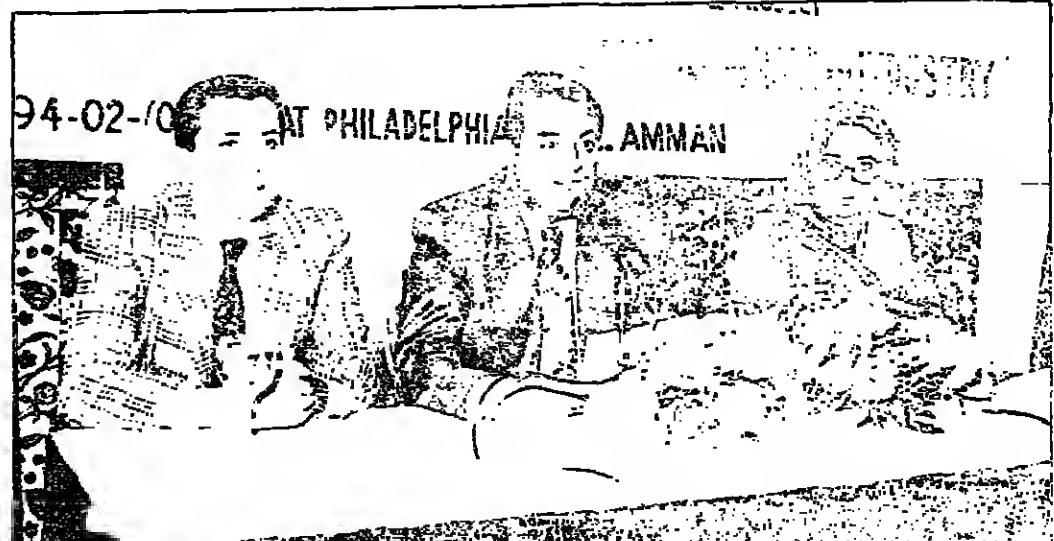
The suspect, identified as S.M.A., told police he stabbed H.K.S. following an argument between the two.

The victim was taken to Jordan University Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the suspect first resisted arrest and escaped. But later he surrendered after police discovered the weapon (a switch blade) allegedly used in the crime.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- EXHIBITIONS
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.
 - ★ Art exhibition by artist Huda Sami Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720902).
 - ★ Art exhibition by artist Mobammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawi and Jamal Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Pameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
 - ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Oriati Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
 - ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hmoed at the Baidana Art Gallery (Wasfi Al Tal Street).



Setting Industry Standards: Ministry of Trade and Industry Secretary General Marwan Awad (centre) Monday opens a three-day seminar on "standardisation and its role in industry." The ministry, in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GZT) organised the seminar at the Amman Philadelphia Hotel, for representatives of the private and public sectors in the country. A total of 100 engineers, technicians and specialists in specifications and standards are attending. They will discuss requirements for ensuring the minimum level of quality needed in manufactured products, ways of ensuring protection for the environment from industrial work and other relevant subjects.

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Encounter, with words

IT APPEARS that the international outcry over the killing of 68 Bosnians and the wounding of many others in a mortar attack on Saturday will confine itself once again to mere rhetoric about the need to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia. U.S. President Bill Clinton, once a champion of the cause of Bosnia's independence and territorial integrity, saw in the attack an occasion to reinforce the call for peace in the country, but has done little on the ground to stop the fighting. The international community, especially the affected Bosnians, must be awfully tired of hearing the expressions of sentiments for peace while the indiscriminate killings and widespread suffering go on unabated.

President Clinton's worn-out pledge to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnians if the massacres continued has a shallow tone to it, and we wish that he would stop making false promises that his administration has no intention to keep. Only a week ago, the U.S. Senate voted by an overwhelming majority to end the arms embargo on Bosnia. Republican Senate leader Robert Dole has likewise repeatedly assured the White House that the American people would solidly back effective U.S. air strikes on Serbian gunners besieging Sarajevo. Yet nothing has happened, although other Western capitals are starting to feel more heat by the recent deaths in the Sarajevo marketplace. Unfortunately, though, most are offering no more than useless ideas to defuse the situation. One capital is calling for investigation, as if an attack of this sort needs an investigation and does not fall into a familiar pattern. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali may be edging closer to authorising aerial attacks, but he is not there yet by a long shot. This time, however, the secretary general has tried a turnaround by asking for permission from NATO to launch air strikes, exactly when the Western powers keep on asserting that they are still awaiting authorisation from the U.N. chief.

There is every fear that the continued bloodshed in Bosnia would increase the religious overtones of the conflict. There is nothing worse than to develop the fighting in Bosnia into a religious warfare that would have the seeds for international division on religious grounds. The world is already torn up by scores of flashpoints and can ill afford a religious dimension at a time when reasonable men and women are desperately trying to promote religious tolerance. There are now more and louder calls for an Islamic response, something that does not augur well for the new international order. Even the 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was not spared a frontal attack when one Gulf statesman depicted its objectives as "only to hold meetings and spend millions on meetings." While such a description of the OIC is not totally wrong, the highest concern lies in the fact that religious conflicts need to be contained as soon as possible for fear that their fallout could engulf the entire globe with a new cycle of violence. This is a dimension of the Bosnian crisis that is for solid actions, and not just rhetorical reactions as has been the case so far.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the massacre in Sarajevo that resulted in the death of more than 66 people, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that this horrible act of genocide drew mere verbal reactions from the Western capitals but nothing is being done to punish the culprits. Even the Arab League, which has so far condoned the atrocities committed against the Iraqi people, has followed the example of the Western capitals by voicing condemnation by mere words without moving to lend a helping hand to the victims, said the paper. The Western countries continue to deceive that the world by claiming that they are contemplating measures to stem the killing and to deter the aggressors, but in fact the West is bent on helping the murderers to eliminate the Muslim people of Bosnia, charged the daily. Before the funeral of the victims has ended, the seeming anger over the attack on Sarajevo will calm down in Washington and the other Western capitals as well as the Arab League which would once again delve into its long slumber, perturbed by the death of the Iraqi children or this massacre of the Bosnian women. In this situation, the Serbs who committed this and many other crimes against the Muslims will have the courage to pursue their action further, it added.

The View from Fourth Circle

Thanks, Doc, for a needed prologue

The parliamentary debate on the food and medicines controversy unleashed by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas was very impressive, but also slightly sad. It was impressive because of the manner in which an issue of great political sensitivity and public importance was openly and honestly discussed, with a credible degree of democratic give-and-take between the government and the parliamentarians.

It was also impressive for the decisive decisions by the executive and legislative branches to ask the public prosecutor to study the allegations thoroughly, to initiate legal cases against alleged violators of the pertinent laws, and to strengthen the control systems relating to food and medicines. On all these counts, the young Jordanian democratic system was rather effective, at least in the rhetoric department. We heard many good things. It remains to be seen what action follows.

The parliamentary debate probably accurately reflected the spectrum of opinion in society as a whole vis-a-vis the key issues at hand, i.e. should the minister of health have launched his campaign with an interview to a sensational tabloid newspaper? Could he not have dealt with the alleged violations through the existing machinery at his disposal? These were not questions that could be answered with a definitive yes or no. They were judgements and opinions that needed to be expressed in a public forum, and this is precisely what happened in a constructive and rational manner (despite the still obvious sensitivity of the government and some MPs to public criticism — a sensitivity that will moderate in time, as our culture adapts to a public system of democratic pluralism and as the individuals involved adapt to the give-and-take of the public accountability of public servants).

The issue of alleged corruption among government officials was also mentioned frequently, and both the government and the MPs were Olympian in their verbal commitment to fighting corruption and safeguarding the wellbeing of the people. We'll have to wait and see what happens in the months ahead in the fight against corruption. It is unlikely that all cases of corruption will miraculously disappear because the government and the MPs waved their arms, vowed to fight for goodness, and condemned corruption as an evil that must be stamped out. Yet, the mere fact that corruption was raised as an issue of public concern is a positive development. We will soon find out if the probe into these charges will get any further than the probes against individuals accused of wrongdoing after the 1989 parliamentary elections.

Compared to most other countries in the Middle East, Jordan was heroic in its commitment to an honest, open discussion of issues that touched on both the personal wellbeing of the citizenry and the conduct of public officials. The rest of the Middle East, however, is a slubious standard against which to judge our progress on the democratisation front. We should be careful about putting ourselves on the back for being tidy in a largely messy neighbourhood.

Nevertheless, the last two weeks were generally positive in this respect, and we should recognise the good news while not hesitating to point out the bad news.

The bad news, I would suggest, is that the whole controversy sparked by Dr. Malhas' interview never really touched the main point that underlies the food and medicines controversy and others like it that probably await future exposure. That main point is the capacity of our public sector to play the quality control, supervisory and watchdog functions that are its legal and moral obligation.

The specific accusations about merchants who pressured the government to give them favourable decisions on imports or prices are not surprising, in view of the large profits that stand to be made. This is the central weakness that makes the government and many of its personnel susceptible to charges of wrongdoing — the fact that there is so much money available to be made in the private sector, while the public sector languishes under the intolerable burden of limited funds that have to be distributed in the form of salaries amongst a large bureaucracy.

Petty and massive corruption are likely to occur when three things happen, as have happened in Jordan and most of the rest of the Middle East in the second half of this century: when the central government is the major employer in the economy and also controls most spending that determines the fate of the national economy, and when there are no serious checks and balances on executive authority.

We suffer the additional problem of having a dynamic private sector and allowing free movement of people, which means that talented individuals can look to the private sector or employment abroad if they do not find government work professionally or financially satisfying. The result: a steady drain of the best minds out of public service and into the private sector or abroad, and a growing gap between salaries in the private and public sectors.

There is little doubt, as a result, that the quality of the public sector as a whole has declined in recent decades. While this may lead to some corruption — the parliamentary debate suggests that such a feeling is widespread — the more important problem is that it could lead to large-scale mismanagement or even incompetence. Specifically, the new threat that confronts our societies today and in the near future is whether or not the public sector has the combination of human expertise and organisational capacity to deal with the political power of the private sector and its alluring money.

The private sector is not angelic, of course; corporate greed will drive many private businesspeople to maximise their profits at the expense of the public's wellbeing, even through the use of bribes, favours, gifts, and other dubious means. Many government bureaucrats will find themselves in situations where they are unable to resist the temptations of private sector offerings. How can we expect a mid-level bureaucrat earning JD 150 a month to deal with the political and financial

pressures that can be brought to bear on him or her by the likes of global corporate giants that manufacture soft drinks, cigarettes, and other items that have a mass market potential in Jordan?

In the last three decades, we have witnessed the inability of government officials to formulate tough policies that are in the interest of the people as a whole. Because such policies may hurt some special interest groups. We have seen our currency lose more than half its foreign exchange value. We have seen the finest rainfed agricultural lands in our western highlands sacrificed at the altar of commercial real estate profiteering. We have watched our underground water reserves slowly squeezed to a dangerous level where permanent damage may be inevitable. We have witnessed the emergence of serious environmental problems without sufficiently strong prevention or remedial programmes.

Historians and political psychologists will have to determine the reasons for these facts. I cannot say if this is a consequence of sheer mediocrity by public officials who faced problems they could not handle, or a case of intelligent, honest and hard-working individuals who were unable to withstand the political and other pressures that they were subjected to.

The fact remains that our public sector today is being asked to play the vital role of legal and moral watchdog of society, but it is not being given the personnel or the financial means needed to play that role. It is not surprising, then, that our society should suffer some corruption. It is surprising, however, that we should allow the causes of corruption and mismanagement to continue for so long, without addressing them.

We have a political system in place today that allows for an open, honest discussion of such sensitive issues. Dr. Malhas has done the country a real service by provoking a debate on the food and medicines sector. He should be thanked for his courage and his decisiveness, and perhaps even pencilled in for higher office in the future. What has happened in the last two weeks, though, is merely prologue. The real show has yet to begin.

It remains now for the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the Parliament headed by Taher Al Masri and Ahmad Al Lawzi to provide the leadership that their people expect from them — leadership in identifying the underlying causes of public sector mismanagement and corruption, and action to redress the causes. To evade such a responsibility would be simply to compound the problems and weaknesses of the recent past, and to postpone the day of reckoning until the problems caused by current trends are routinely catastrophic, rather than merely the cause of episodic news dramas. If the government and the parliament want to work together for the long-term public good, as they say they do, here's a good place to start.

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An irreversible process

By Yitzhak Rabin

IN THE last decade of our 20th century, walls of hatred have fallen, peoples have been liberated, and artificial barriers have disappeared, powers have crumbled and ideologies have collapsed.

It is our sacred duty, to ourselves and to our children, to see the new world as it is now, to note its dangers, explore its prospects, and do everything possible so that the state of Israel will fit into the changing face of this world. I think that in recent years the world has shrunk and no nation can solve its problems alone, and no country should think that it is isolated. Each nation should overcome those feelings and act in world and regional cooperation. We wish that our region will also join this movement towards peace, reconciliation and cooperation that is spreading over the globe these days.

I have committed myself and my government to the present peace process, and I have expressed on many occasions my hope that 1994 will be a year during which a peace agreement can be reached with our Arab neighbours. We believe with all our hearts that peace is possible, that it is imperative, and that it will come.

For much of my life I was a soldier. I took part in Israel's wars, as well as Israel's march for peace. As one who has been a soldier, I can still see — as though it were just yesterday — the rows of fallen comrades lining the road to Jerusalem in our war of independence; the skeletons of the burnt-out vehicles; the burning trucks; and the thousands of besieged Jerusalemites coming out towards us to get their sacks of sugar and rice and Jerry cans of water.

As one who was a commander, I know that before we decided — before I decided —

to go into battle, we always saw before us — and will always see — the eyes of the soldiers asking whether this is vital, whether there isn't some other choice.

Only one who, year after year, stands facing the thousands and tens of thousands of silent mourners in the cemeteries on Memorial Day, only one who has seen worlds destroyed and families devastated knows just how important peace is to us.

Nevertheless, as the son of a people that was exiled from its land as the son of a people to whom the picture of the child with raised hands in the Warsaw ghetto returns at night, I ask for your understanding and undivided attention: For us, peace, as important as it is, cannot prevail without security. Israel will be very forthcoming in its quest for peace, but it will not compromise on its security.

Israel is ready for peace and is willing to take risks and make dramatic decisions. But any risk or decision should be well calculated, for hasty actions could bring upon us irreversible results.

As chief of staff during the Arab-Israeli war, I promised myself that I would be the last commander of the Israeli army who would have to face untenable borders, unreasonable lines of defence, and the threat of annihilation. The security of our children, our security is essential.

If we have security, we will also have peace — for all the inhabitants of our country and for its neighbours.

The government of Israel recognises that in order to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and for peace to be real and permanent, it must be inclusive of all the parties to the conflict participating in the present peace process.

The U.S. has generated a formula which serves both as a

procedural and substantive term of reference to the peace process. We believe very firmly that there is no need to alter this formula, for it responds to our long quest to hold direct negotiations with those Arab parties invited to this process according to the Madrid Letter of Invitation. We should not lose precious time.

Our aim is to conclude a set of bilateral peace agreements in each and every track of negotiations in order to meet the objective of establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

The problem now is one of substance. I am convinced that temporary setbacks and difficulties in our negotiations with the PLO will not stop us from reaching an agreement. The road to peace is irreversible. Therefore I do believe that we should persevere in our efforts aimed at implementing our agreement with the PLO.

We don't have any territorial designs in Lebanon and our problems with Jordan could be solved fairly easily. However, Lebanon will not budge without Syria's blessing.

President Clinton met with President Assad in Geneva on Jan. 16. Out of this event came a hope that we should explore carefully in order to be sure that Syria genuinely means to achieve the kind of peace and security we are looking for, a peace that would last for generations to come, a peace that would put an end to the sufferings, plight and fear of all the peoples in the Middle East, a peace that would fulfill Prophet Isaiah's vision: "Nation shall not lift sword against nation, nor shall they learn war any more."

This is an excerpt from Prime Minister Rabin's address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe last week in Strasbourg. It is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Torn between East, West U.S. still to formulate post-cold war strategy

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Torn between Europe and Asia, between trade policy and classic realpolitik, the United States is still trying to construct a coherent strategy in the post-cold war world.

The visit of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to Washington Friday presents an opportunity to examine these issues anew. But analysts and officials are divided on how the various strands of policy might fit together.

Last November at a summit for Asian-Pacific nations in Seattle, President Clinton seemed to suggest that the United States would increasingly look to Asia and to encouraging trade as its top priorities in foreign affairs.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher ruffled feathers by declaring that Europe was no longer the centre of the world.

That forced Mr. Clinton to soothe feelings during a January NATO summit by stating that Washington's new attention to Asia certainly did not come at the expense of its

traditional cultural ties and decades of friendship with Europe.

All this is happening under a U.S. president who is less interested, less experienced and less engaged in foreign affairs than some of his predecessors. There is a feeling in Washington that the priority is neither Asia nor Europe but Iowa, Texas and California and that all politics have become local.

A decision to let Irish republican leader Gerry Adams visit the United States was taken largely because Mr. Clinton needs the support of prominent Irish-American politicians to push through health care reforms.

Intervention to stop the war in Yugoslavia was rejected because it "would threaten the survival of the fragile liberal coalition represented by this presidency," one State Department official said last year.

U.S. troops started leaving Somalia after 18 soldiers were killed in a firefight — considered an unacceptable level of casualties for the world's only superpower in the post cold war world.

So what are U.S. priorities and what should they be?

During the cold war, U.S. foreign policy consisted of opposing the Soviet Union anywhere and everywhere in the world. Everything else was secondary.

According to Boston University Professor Uri Ra'anani, the priority should still be the future of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

"You don't require a foreign policy to do trade. Foreign policy has always been and remains security policy. It has to do with arms agreements, the creation of alliances and the prevention of weapon proliferation," he said.

In Mr. Ra'anani's view, the number one task facing Mr. Clinton is to rebuild NATO into an effective instrument that will be able to react to crises that are sure to lie ahead in Europe. But his view does not seem to be shared in the administration.

"In the past, the security threat gave us good reason to overlook discrepancies in economic relations," said a senior State Department official.

Russia is vital link in NATO's partnership plans

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Eastern European states are racing to sign new military partnership deals with NATO but the alliance is increasingly worried that Russia — the most vital link in the chain — may not take part.

NATO leaders offered "partnership for peace" to its former Communist foes, including Russia, at a summit one month ago. Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Estonia have all signed. Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia will do so this week.

The partnership, which provides for joint training, peacekeeping exercises and other military cooperation, was designed partly to ease Russian fears that NATO would rush to take on Moscow's former satellites as members.

The idea was billed as a chance to include all countries in building greater security for Europe, while not excluding an expansion of NATO at some time in the future.

NATO diplomats said that while Russia had initially wel-

comed the plan, there were now indications that Moscow was unhappy with the rush to sign up by countries which see the partnership as the first step towards joining the 16-nation alliance.

"One of the central ideas behind partnership for peace was that it would be a way of including Russia, since it is the highest power in Europe and the most important part of the jigsaw," said one NATO diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"We are increasingly worried by signals that Moscow may not be interested after all," he said.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said last week Moscow could not support the partnership if it was used as a vehicle for the integration of Eastern European states and former Soviet republics into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The problem is that this is precisely how Eastern European states see it. Romania, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia all stressed in signing the deal at NATO Headquarters that their aim was full membership. Eastern European states are

increasingly worried by the rise of extreme nationalism in Russia and Moscow's more conservative line on foreign policy, which diplomats say has been heavily influenced by the military.

With signs that Russia may be edging away from reform, those countries are keener than ever to find shelter with NATO.

Russia wants U.N. approval to take more direct responsibility for keeping order in former Soviet republics and has raised problems recently over a landmark European arms treaty which limits the deployment of its conventional forces.

In addition, there is still tension between Moscow and the Baltic republics, part of the Soviet Union until 1991.

NATO diplomats say they have received conflicting signals from Moscow on the "partnership for peace" proposal and that it is unclear what Russia really means.

President Boris Yeltsin told U.S. President Bill Clinton after the NATO summit last month that Moscow would play an active role in the partnership.

Freshwater growing scarce, misused

Raising the spectre of sharply increased water prices and urging agriculture to produce more food with less water, the annual report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the state of Food and Agriculture 1993 labelled freshwater as "an increasingly scarce and valuable resource."

'As populations expand and economies grow, competition for limited supplies will intensify and so will conflicts among users'

use. As much as 60 per cent of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation is wasted; in too

— In Asia, while improved seed and fertiliser technology, complemented with a vast expansion in irrigation facilities, removed the spectre of hun-

In a detailed analysis of the situation in Africa, the report highlighted some bright developments, including a programme launched by Senegal that aims to achieve 80 per cent self-sufficiency in food.

The FAO publishes The State of Food and Agriculture each year as part of its continuing effort to focus world attention on the major issues constraining increased agricultural production and more equitable distribution of the food supply.

In research on how a drug works against tuberculosis, scientists have found a gene that directs production of an enzyme involved in building a special structural layer.

Two Theories of Resistance

Mutation
If the gene mutates and produces an altered enzyme, the drug will not bind to the enzyme.

Drug Saturation
If too much of the enzyme is produced the drug is overwhelmed

Another dividend of the new findings might be the development of more rapid tests to

SPECIAL

The next step is to crystallise the enzyme, thereby providing

Dr. Jacobs also said that he has found hints that inhA might have implications beyond tuberculosis and he speculated that the discovery "might open up the way to make a whole new class of broad-spectrum antibiotics" — New York Times

His Majesty King Hussein, who was away on an official visit to the U.S., when Mr. Maaytah was murdered, told reporters upon his return that Jordan would not be "intimidated by cowards and

and the airforce command in Sanaa and Hodeida are held responsible for the consequences of such illegal acts which represent a serious precedent threatening flights in the Yemeni airspace and harming Yemen's reputation."

laayteh murder

Mr. Kamal said the Palestinians "want to end the de-

The guerrillas also carried out two other bomb attacks Monday on patrols from the

The PLO on Sunday appealed to the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace initiative launched in 1991, to "pressure" Israel into "rapidly" withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

the country apart. The two ruled North and South Yemen respectively until the merger.

Save water ... every drop counts

N. Korea sanctions 'inevitable'

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.N. sanctions against North Korea for refusing nuclear inspections appear inevitable despite a new promise by its leader not to develop atomic bombs.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo said U.N. sanctions against the Communist North appeared unavoidable if no progress is made in the nuclear issue within two weeks.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general is expected to declare safeguards broken in North Korea if no breakthrough is made by Feb. 21.

Mr. Han told a meeting with opposition legislators. "In such a case, it is inevitable that North Korea's nuclear issue would be referred to the U.N. Security Council," he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is a U.N. agency monitoring the spread of nuclear weapons. North Korea says its nuclear programme is peaceful but its refusal to accept mandatory international inspections has deepened suspicions that it might be developing nuclear weapons.

In a verbal message sent to President Bill Clinton through U.S. Evangelist Billy Graham last week, North Korean President Kim Il Sung promised anew that his country would not develop nuclear weapons

and hoped for improved ties with Washington, Seoul officials said.

Rev. Graham stopped over in Hong Kong on his way home from the North Korean trip and said he had an aide take Mr. Kim's message to Mr. Clinton ahead of him.

A copy of Mr. Graham's report was sent to the Seoul government by the White House.

"In the message, President Kim noted that he has promised many times in the past not to develop nuclear weapons and hoped to improve relations with the United States," said Chang Jae-Ryong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Division.

Rev. Graham also said in the report that the 81-year-old Kim looked healthy and gave the impression that he personally handled nuclear and other major state affairs. Kim Jong Il, the president's 51-year-old son, is being groomed to succeed his father.

Meanwhile, North Korean official newspaper said Monday Pyongyang will not negotiate with the United States to end row over its suspected nuclear programme so long as Washington failed to honour its promises.

"The United States has totally reversed its promise (to North Korea) that it would seek only an inspection for the continuity of safeguards," said a commentary in the Rodong

Sinmun, the organ of North Korea's ruling party.

The article, entitled "we have no intention to negotiate with (a) faithless partner", said the United States had "even raised the demand for a 'special inspection' of two military sites which have nothing to do with nuclear activities."

"We will not entreat the United States to keep its faith. It is our will to answer faith with faith, and strong arm with a tough stance," said the article, carried by the state-run (North) Korean Central News Agency and seen in Tokyo.

Last week, North Korea threatened to tear up its "goodwill commitments" with the United States over Washington demands to open all suspected nuclear sites to international inspection.

At the heart of the dispute is the question of two sites. North Korea insists it has no nuclear weapons programme and has refused to open the sites to inspection by the IAEA.

In a sign of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula, the United States has decided to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea from March or April — a step South Korean elder statesmen Kim Dae-Jung described Monday as unhelpful.

"I don't think it is helpful for the nuclear negotiations," the retired pro-democracy campaigner said in Hong Kong. Patriot missiles are designed to intercept the type of missiles

which North Korea produces.

In Washington, the Defence Department has told some reservists to prepare for possible joint military exercises with South Korea that North Korean leaders have portrayed as a symbol of planning for war.

The Post, in a dispatch from Vienna said orders to ship out more than a thousand U.S. troops and reservists to South Korea were being prepared for Feb. 22. The exercise is known as Team Spirit.

In Seoul, a defector from North Korea said Monday he had fled the country because food shortages had forced him and his family to eat animal fodder.

Chung Ki-Hae, 52, told a government-organised press conference that even the corn and soybeans mixed with animal fodder provided in rations early last year had run out.

"Beginning last May even these ceased to be provided as rations and our family had to live on potatoes alone," he said.

Mr. Chung told how he had fled over the Chinese border on Dec. 30 but declined to say how he had reached the South Korean port of Pusan.

Reports of food shortages in North Korea have been rife but unsubstantiated in the three years since China started asking hard currency for its exports and the collapse of the Soviet Union, formerly a main trading partner.



TINY BOOK: A tiny book entitled *Three Hundred Poems From The Tang Dynasty* is displayed in the Taiwanese capital, Taipei. The 75-page book took two years to make and measures 0.9 centimetres long, 0.9 centimetres wide and 0.5 centimetres high. It is part of a 50-piece exhibit of miniatures which will open on Feb. 18 in Taipei (AFP photo)

Right wing holds secret meeting aheads of planned government, ANC talks

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The conservative Freedom Alliance was locked in top secret talks Monday ahead of a planned meeting with the government and the African National Congress (ANC) on whether it will take part in the country's first all-race elections in April.

Sources close to the Alliance said the tripartite talks would begin Monday evening in Pretoria, but none of the participants would officially confirm this.

The negotiations had recessed Thursday following an ANC announcement that it would unveil a package of compromises bowing to certain Alliance demands only if the conservative group agreed to be more "flexible."

An ANC spokesman said the ball was now in the Alliance's court, while a spokesman for the rival, Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a top member of the Freedom Alliance, said it was up to the ANC to decide whether or not it intended to unveil its package.

The ANC said last week that it had backed down on its demand for a single ballot paper to choose members of the national and regional assemblies in the April 26-28 election.

Other reports said the package also included greater federal powers for the country's nine new provinces.

The Freedom Alliance, which comprises the IFP, the white right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) and the government of the Bophuthatswana black homeland, opposed ANC claims that separate ballot papers would result in confusion and spoiled votes.

The alliance said a single voting slip would be an advantage to larger parties and penalise smaller political groups.

An IFP official told AFP Monday that the ANC's offer to unveil its compromise package in return for "flexibility" was "a fortune cookie approach" to the negotiations.

"You cannot find out what is in the cookie until you break it open," she said.

She also said an ANC compromise on the single-double ballot issue had "no constitutional value in terms of powers (for the regions)" — it only has democratic value.

Both government and Alliance spokesmen remained tight-lipped over the eventual resumption of the talks.

An Alliance spokesman said there "was a news blackout" on the conservative group's meeting, and that things were "at a very delicate stage."

tion and warned that a government-ANC rejection would have "adverse implications."

On Monday, President F.W. de Klerk accused the ANC of "deliberately" sidelining the IFP and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, saying this continued to be major cause behind the violence in South Africa.

Speaking to a group of businessmen here, he also appealed for their support in order to have a "balance of power" in the national unity government to emerge from the April election.

The ANC, meanwhile, announced Monday that its president, Nelson Mandela, would hold talks with Bophuthatswana's President Lucas Mangope, but that the date was not yet known.

On Sunday, Mandela's convoy drove through Bophuthatswana police lines while on an election campaign, with Mr. Mandela saying the homeland leader's refusal to allow free political activity was among "the things that make us detest (Mangope) from the bottom of our heart."

But, Mr. Mandela added, "despite all the unspeakable crimes Mangope has committed, we are prepared to sit down with him and find a solution... if Mangope wants to settle, we are prepared to listen very carefully."

New Zealander tries to attack Charles

AUCKLAND (R) — A 58-year-old man muttering that he wanted to "remove the stink of royalty" was wrestled to the ground in New Zealand Monday after charging at Britain's Prince Charles spraying a can of air freshener.

Castilav Bracanov, previously jailed for minor attacks on royalty visiting New Zealand, rushed towards the heir to the British throne as he walked among crowds of well-wishers on Auckland waterfront.

Prince Charles was unharmed in the attack, which was foiled when several police officers leapt on the balking Bracanov, a Yugoslav settled in New Zealand, and took him away under arrest.

Showing the same sangfroid that earned him praise when he was attacked 10 days ago in Australia, Prince Charles hardly appeared to notice the incident, which lasted just a few seconds.

"He was completely unbothered. His only comment was an ironic one: 'whatever next?' his Private Secretary Richard Aylard told reporters.

Governor-General Dame Cath Tizard, the queen's representative in New Zealand, told Reuters that Prince Charles had barely noticed the incident and was not bothered by it.

"He just said, 'what was that all about?'" Dame Cath said.

Police said the aerosol sprayed by Mr. Bracanov as he ran to within three metres of Prince Charles contained air freshener.

Photographer Paul Estcourt heard Mr. Bracanov shouting: "You're always spraying shit anyway." Another witness, photographer Ross Land, said he heard Mr. Bracanov saying he wanted to "remove the stink of royalty."

Mr. Bracanov was convicted in 1988 and 1990 of charges relating to incidents in which he dumped horse manure in the path of cars carrying Spanish and British monarchs.

He was also convicted of damaging a rare vintage Rolls Royce car in Auckland two years ago because of its connection to British royalty.

Mr. Bracanov is a well-known voice on New Zealand talk radio shows, where he frequently airs radical anti-monarchy views. His lawyer, Colin Amery, said Mr. Bracanov "has a basic view that heredity should not automatically grant people high office."

Police said he would appear in court Tuesday in Auckland charged with disorderly conduct. The maximum penalty is a small fine.

Prince Charles, besieged in the past year during a highly-publicised separation from his wife, Princess Diana, was praised for his reaction to a more violent event in Sydney on Jan. 26, when a young student charged at him firing a starter's gun.

New Finnish president stresses need for unity

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's President-Elect Martti Ahtisaari has pledged to be a unifying force in a country mired in recession and facing tough foreign policy choices.

Mr. Ahtisaari, a veteran United Nations diplomat with little experience of domestic politics, is expected to continue neutral Finland's moves towards closer ties with the West since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Ahtisaari, 56, of the opposition Social Democrats, beat Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn of the Swedish People's Party Sunday in Finland's first presidential election, by direct popular vote, he won 53.9 per cent of the vote against Ms. Rehn's 46.1 per cent.

He is a firm supporter of the Nordic nation's bid to join the European Union next year.

"The incoming president will have difficult tasks both in economic and foreign policy. It is important that the nation is not split," Mr. Ahtisaari said after Ms. Rehn conceded defeat.

"I will try to see to it that I am perceived as a president for the whole country," he said.

Despite Mr. Ahtisaari's campaign focus on the country's worst recession since independence from neighbouring Russia in 1917, his main task will be foreign policy, including maintaining good relations with Moscow.

Throughout his campaign Mr. Ahtisaari has said that Russia, with which Finland shares a 1,270 kilometre border, must not be isolated in post-cold war Europe.

"We have always in Finland wanted to maintain good relations with our neighbours, particularly Russia, and I want to continue that," he told a post-election news conference.

"It is important that we support a democratic process in Russia, it is important that

reforms continue and that they are supported by the international community," he said.

In Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said, "he will be a president who continues and strengthens the Nordic and European orientation of Finnish politics, which has become ever more pronounced in recent years."

In the late 1980s, Finnish leaders said the country's neutrality was incompatible with European Community membership.

But its room for manoeuvre increased after the demise of the Soviet Union and Finland is now, like Sweden, in the final stages of negotiating EU accession.

Even NATO membership has not been ruled out, though its policy remains one of independent defence and military non-alignment.

"I favour a pan-European security system containing all the sides important to us. In such a system, care must be taken not to leave Russia outside," Mr. Ahtisaari said last week.

However, political analysts say it was Mr. Ahtisaari's focus on record unemployment of nearly 20 per cent, which was a decisive factor in his victory.

Mr. Ahtisaari, a heavily-built man with a pensive manner, only decided to run for the presidency last March, benefiting from voter disenchantment with old-style covert politics that dominated the country throughout the cold war.

He said voters had recognised him as independent-minded and has vowed to travel widely round the vast but sparsely-populated country to stay in touch with the people.

"I want to maintain this contact because I sense that somehow people felt they had lost the capacity to influence the events in this country," he has said.

Son of former president wins Costa Rican election

SAN JOSE (R) — The son of the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica won Sunday's presidential election.

With more than 80 per cent of the vote counted, Jose Maria Figueres led ruling party candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez by 49.7 per cent to 47.5 per cent.

"The soul of our campaign was the strength of the people, and with that we won the elections," Mr. Figueres declared.

Mr. Rodriguez conceded defeat earlier in the evening. The two candidates were running neck and neck when early returns began coming in.

"The people have spoken and we have to accept their decision, so with joy and affection I have come to accept the decision of the people and wish Mr. Figueres success," Mr. Rodriguez said.

Mr. Figueres, 39, leader of the National Liberation Party, said social justice would be the hallmark of his government. Addressing thousands of

supporters at an outdoor rally, Mr. Figueres said his victory marked a rejection of "trickle-down" economic policies of the government of the Social Christian Unity Party.

"We are going to... put the country on the road to progress with social justice," he said.

Mr. Figueres will succeed President Rafael Angel Calderon, who leaves office on May 8 after a four-year term. The constitution barred Mr. Calderon from seeking a second term.

Mr. Figueres is the son of late former President Jose "pepe" Figueres, the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica.

The younger Figueres, a former agriculture minister, vowed to give the government a greater role in the country's social development after more than a decade of free-market economics.

"I come to reaffirm that we will govern for those who have the least and need the most," he said.

French Socialists start recovery

PARIS (AFP) — France's opposition Socialist Party made the beginnings of a recovery, winning two out of three by-elections against candidates of the right and scoring a closely-fought victory in a Paris constituency.

Socialist leader Michel Rocard called the results in Sunday's polls a sign of the party's "recovery" after its defeat in legislative elections in March 1993. The three by-elections were called after France's Constitutional Council annulled last March's results for campaign overspending, making the winners ineligible for a year.

In spite of high abstention rates, the Socialist candidate in Paris, Daniel Vaillant, scored a convincing victory with 53.6 per cent of the vote, winning the seat back from the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) in a working class

His success was all the more remarkable after right-wing leaders, including Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) leader Jacques Chirac, turned out to support Anne-Marie Pierre-Bloch, wife of the invalidated UDF-MP.

In the Loire Valley constituency of Blois, the outcome was more a demonstration of the continuing popularity of the city's mayor, former Socialist Culture Minister Jack Lang.

He said voters had recognised him as independent-minded and has vowed to travel widely round the vast but sparsely-populated country to stay in touch with the people.

"I want to maintain this contact because I sense that somehow people felt they had lost the capacity to influence the events in this country," he has said.

Joseph Cotten, Hollywood's southern gentleman, dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Joseph Cotten, the courtly southern gentleman who gained stardom in the 1941 classic *Citizen Kane* and went on to become one of the most popular leading men of his era, died Sunday. He was 88.

Cotten died of pneumonia at his home in the Westwood section of Los Angeles with his wife, actress Patricia Medina, at his bedside, his publicist said. Cotten had been ill for several months.

In the rough-and-tumble acting that was Hollywood in the 1940s there were tough guys, romantic heroes, aristocrats and rogues, but Cotten was considered a gentleman to the core.

The adjectives used to describe Cotten, a Virginian whose grandfather was a Confederate general in the civil war, were applied as well to his characters: Suave, urbane, modest, intelligent, low-key.

Tall and square-jawed with a resonant voice, he played his first film role — and perhaps his most memorable — in *Citizen Kane*, considered among the greatest American films.

He portrayed Jedidiah Leeland, the childhood friend to the title character, played by his own friend, legendary actor and director Orson Welles. Through the 1940s and early 1950s, Cotten appeared opposite some of Hollywood's top leading ladies, including



Joseph Cotten in the movie *The Third Man*

Marilyn Monroe, Ingrid Bergman and Bette Davis. One of his most heralded roles was in the 1949 film *The Third Man*, playing an American pulp novelist searching for an old pal in post-war Vienna.

He also gained critical acclaim in such movies as *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), also by Welles, *Alfred Hitchcock's Shadow Of A Doubt* (1943), *I'll Be Seeing You* (1945), *Love Letters* (1945) and *The Farmer's Daughter* (1947).

In the waning years of his career, Cotten was reduced to B-movie roles in such films as *Hush*... *Hush*, *Sweet Charlotte* (1965) with Davis, *Soylent Green* (1973) and *Airport 77* (1977), but he still managed to give them a touch of class.

Cotten suffered a stroke in 1981 and only after years of speech therapy was he able to regain his voice. But his acting career was over. In 1989 his voice box was removed in a treatment for cancer and, unable to speak, he took up sculpting.

During a career spanning three decades, Cotten always avoided pretence. "Movies and theatre aren't life," he once told an interviewer. "They're only part of it. We make a living out of acting and pray we don't get associated with too much junk."

Cotten was born in Petersburg, Virginia, May 15, 1905. His mother's family owned two plantations, but Cotten attended public schools and delivered packages by bicycle.

Odd jobs led him to Miami. He sold advertising for the *Miami Herald*, wrote drama reviews and performed with theatre groups, where he met Lenore Kipp Lamont, a divorcee who convinced him to take his talent back to New York. They were wed in 1931.

In 1936, while playing the policeman in James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice* at the Lyceum Theatre, Cotten met Orson Welles, while performing in a serious radio show, the pair launched a colleague's gaffe. They were fired together, which formed the basis of their friendship.

Welles invited Cotten to join his theatre troupe, which became the Mercury Theatre Co. Cotten performed in many of Welles's plays and radio programmes, including the famous 1938 *War Of The Worlds*, before joining Katharine Hepburn onstage in the Philadelphia Story, playing the well-bred C.K. Dexter Haven.

The film role went to Cary Grant, but Welles was waiting with Citizen Kane. Cotten played the theatre critic who was friend and conscience to newspaper baron Charles Foster Kane.

"I'd never made a movie before and I was scared to death of the machinery, the technical things," Cotten recalled. "But Orson made it easy... He turned out to be an instinctive master of the camera."

After courting Merle Oberon in the 1941 British production of *Lydia*, Cotten returned to work with Welles on *The Magnificent Ambersons*, the tale of a declining aristocratic family and one of Cotten's best movies.

Cotten joined Welles in writing and starring in *Journey Into Fear* before he signed a contract in 1942 with producer David O. Selznick, who cast him in *Shadow Of A Doubt* as a sly slayer of wealthy widows.

In *Gaslight* (1944), Cotten played a Scotland Yard detective opposite Ingrid Bergman, who won an Oscar.

Whoopi Goldberg named to host Oscar ceremony

HOLLYWOOD (R) — Oscar-winning actress and comedian Whoopi Goldberg was named Sunday to host this year's Academy Awards ceremony. Goldberg, the first woman and first black performer to serve as a solo host of the show, replaces Billy Crystal, who last month said he would not return after filling the role for four straight years. "I'm thrilled about my date with Oscar," Goldberg said in a statement.

"To go from watching to winning to hosting in one lifetime is major." The Academy Awards will be handed out March 21 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and will be televised live to hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide. "Whoopi Goldberg has all the qualities of a great Oscar host," the show's producer Gilbert Cates said. "She is a major movie star with millions of fans and she is also one of the funniest, most talented performers working today."

Goldberg recently went to bat for her then-companion, actor Ted Danson when Danson was criticised for blacking his face and telling a series of bawdy, and what some considered racist and sexist jokes, at a charity luncheon for Goldberg. She later defended his routine, saying she had written some of the material and that she found it funny. With Crystal's abrupt announcement he would not return as host, Cates was faced with the task of finding a replacement quickly. Along with Goldberg, a number of others had been rumoured as possible successors, including Robin Williams, Tom Hanks, Eddie Murphy, Chevy Chase and Johnny Carson. Goldberg, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress in 1991 for her role in *Ghost*, has co-hosted comic relief — a televised charity benefit for the homeless — in recent years.

On Sunday, Mandela's convoy drove through Bophuthatswana police lines while on an election campaign, with Mr. Mandela saying the homeland leader's refusal to allow free political activity was among "the things that make us detest (Mangope) from the bottom of our heart."

But, Mr. Mandela added, "despite all the unspeakable crimes Mangope has committed, we are prepared to sit down with him and find a solution... if Mangope wants to settle, we are prepared to listen very carefully."

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BURUARY 8, 1994

Goldberg to host ceremony

OOD (R) — One of the most famous and successful athletes in the world, Muhammad Ali, will be the first woman to perform at the ceremony. Ali, who is 54 years old, will be the first woman to perform at the ceremony. Ali, who is 54 years old, will be the first woman to perform at the ceremony.



Los Angeles Lakers George Lynch (left) and Vlade Divac (right) try to stop Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone as he drives to the basket Sunday. The Lakers beat the Jazz 107-90 (AFP photo)

Ewing leads Knicks past Magic

NEW YORK (R) — Patrick Ewing had 32 points and Charles Oakley added 13 points and 21 rebounds to spark the New York Knicks to a 95-77 victory over the Orlando Magic late Sunday.

The Knicks won for the seventh time in their last eight games.

Orlando, held to its fewest points this season, has lost three straight for the first time of the season. Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points for the Magic, but was hampered with five fouls over the last 4-12 minutes.

In Washington, Chris Webber scored 26 points and Golden State held Washington to a franchise-low seven points in the fourth-quarter to propel the Warriors to a 106-84 victory over the Bulls.

Latrell Sprewell added 23 points for the Warriors and Billy Owens scored 20.

Webber, Sprewell and Owens scored four points apiece in a 12-point run that extended Golden State's lead to 102-83 with 2:15 left. In Los Angeles, Reggie Jordan, who had only scored two points this season coming into the game, totalling 28 to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 107-90 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Jordan, playing in his fifth game, had only seen 11 minutes of action before helping the Lakers win for the 36th time in 43 games against the Jazz in Los Angeles.

At New Jersey, David Robinson scored 36 points, including two free throws with 4.1 seconds left in overtime that gave the San Antonio Spurs their seventh straight win, 104-102 over the New Jersey Nets.

Willie Anderson added 18 points for the Spurs, who have won 18 of their last 21 games. Derriek Coleman had 28 points and 14 rebounds and Kenny Anderson added 26 points and 12 assists for the Nets, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

In Denver, Laphonso Ellis scored 21 points and Rodney Rogers had 12 of his 20 points during a second quarter run to lead the Denver Nuggets to a 99-89 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks in a game that was not as close as the final score might indicate.

Denver led 25-20, early in the second quarter before embarking on an 18-8 run that was led by Rogers' 12 points.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 25 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked eight shots to propel the Houston Rockets to a 101-90 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Otis Thorpe added 19 points and also dominated on the boards with 17 rebounds as the Rockets won their third game without a defeat against the Timberwolves this season.

In Phoenix, Kevin Johnson returned from the chicken pox to score 22 points and Chicago's Scottie Pippen missed an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to give the Phoenix Suns an 89-88 victory over the Bulls.

Pippen scored a game-high 26 points but missed everything on his desperation shot at the buzzer as Chicago had a four-game winning streak broken.

On Saturday, 68 people were killed in a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market and nearly 200 were wounded in the worst single incident in Bosnia's 22-month civil war.

Kapoor said the solidarity day had been arranged Friday.

"What happened at the weekend makes it all the more necessary," she said. "I think that such an appeal is very appropriate."

Lillehammer plans solidarity day for besieged Bosnian capital

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Lillehammer plans a day of solidarity with the people of the besieged Bosnian capital to Sarajevo Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Winter Olympics there.

Mayor Audun Tron, whose town hosts the 1994 games, will sign a special book for messages to Sarajevo and invite others to add their names to the peace appeal in the main square, Lillehammer Olympic aid spokeswoman Nita Kapoor said Monday.

The Lillehammer Olympic Aid Organisation is collecting money for Sarajevo to mark the 10th anniversary and also for young people in Guatemala, Eritrea, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

On Saturday, 68 people were killed in a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market and nearly 200 were wounded in the worst single incident in

Bosnia's 22-month civil war. Kapoor said the solidarity day had been arranged Friday.

"What happened at the weekend makes it all the more necessary," she said. "I think that such an appeal is very appropriate."

Organisers plan to light candles in the shape of the five interlocking Olympic rings and to keep them burning until Tuesday evening.

The book will be handed to the mayor of Sarajevo when he arrives to attend the Lillehammer Games, which open Saturday.

"It will be very simple and a very symbolic act," Kapoor said of the solidarity day for Sarajevo.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to arrange a truce in Bosnia for the duration of the Lillehammer Games.

The Sarajevo games began Feb. 8, 1984 and were the first Winter Olympics to be held in Eastern Europe. Forty-nine countries attended.

Sarajevo's main claim was that it was the city where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914, marking World War I.

Now few have heard of the bloodshed in the Bosnian capital and the whole of the former Yugoslav republic.

Lillehammer Olympic aid, which is backed by the games organisers and other Norwegian bodies, has already raised more than 40 million crowns (\$5.3 million). Of that, 27 million crowns (\$3.6 million) have already been spent on food, medicines and a hospital unit for Sarajevo.

The fund-raising campaign began at the Barcelona summer games in 1992 when Lillehammer was passed the Olympic torch.

Thais win Asian crown

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thai Farmers Bank downed Oman Club of Oman 2-1 Monday night to take the Asian Club Soccer Championship.

Earlier, Japanese champions Yomiuri Verdy salvaged a third-place finish, beating China's Liaoning 4-1 in the consolation playoff.

The Thais scored the opening goal only three minutes into the match after Thawan Thammayai rifled home a cross from Samson Polprasert.

Thirteen minutes later Sing Totavee scored on a loch over Oman goalkeeper Yousuf Obaid after hard-working Worawudh Srimaka split the offside trap with a devious cross.

In the 44th minute, the Omanis scored on a set play when Ebrahim Ali's corner

kick found Zahir Salim whose strong header to the far post eluded Thai goalkeeper Nipon Malanont.

With the Omanis taking the initiative in the second half, the Thais chose to foul their way out of trouble as they also did in the semifinal victory against Yomiuri.

Referee Ali Bujasim handed out five yellow cards.

In the consolation match, two first-half goals from young prospect Shingi Ono set Yomiuri on its way to a sorely needed victory, Yomiuri lost 3-1 in extra time to Thai Farmers Bank in Saturday's semifinal.

Yomiuri extended its lead in the second half with a goal in the 65th minute by Toshimi Kikuchi in a messy attack initiated by a long searching cross from Ono.

Furlan beats Chang in final of San Jose Open

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Renzo Furlan, his game becoming more daring as the match wore on, upset Michael Chang 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 Sunday night to win the San Jose Open, his first title on the tour.

"I'm in the sky right now," said Furlan, the No. 6 seed from Italy. "I can't believe I won."

Furlan, ranked 69th in the world, knocked off the top seed after defeating the No. 2 seed Riehye Reneberg on Saturday. He earned \$42,000 for the victory over the world's ninth-ranked player.

"I was nervous at first, playing Michael Chang in a championship match and all," Furlan said. "Nothing was working. But I started feeling more comfortable in the second set and did a better job of coming to the net."

In the second set, he broke Chang three times. Furlan went up 2-0 in the final set before Chang broke in the third game.

Chang was at break point in the 11th game, but Furlan fought back to lead 6-5. In the deciding game, Furlan was up 30-0 and 40-30. Chang rallied to twice hold the advantage, but went no further. He committed an unforced error and then double-faulted. Furlan won when Chang's return went wide.

"It was a good week but a frustrating day," said Chang, who earned \$24,150. "I found that I really need to work on my conditioning. I didn't expect to play back-to-back three-hour matches."

Chang of Henderson, Nevada, defeated Furlan last year in their only previous meeting.

"He changed tactics after the first set," Chang said. "He started serving and volleying more, and it threw me off some. He picked my serve pretty well, too, and I didn't handle his well, even though his first serve often wasn't that fast."

In the doubles final Sunday night, second-seeded Rick Leach and Jared Palmer upset top-seeded Bryan Black and Jonathan Stark, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.



Hassiba Boulmerka

Boulmerka wins invitational mile

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Hassiba Boulmerka won her second indoor mile in three days Sunday, when a rival misjudged the finish line at an invitational athletics meeting.

Algeria's Boulmerka, the Olympic 1500-metre champion, who had never competed indoors before winning her first race in New York Friday, finished in 4 minutes, 28.64 seconds.

Suzi Hamilton of the United States led until the bell lap, but misjudged the finish and pulled up to finish third behind Boulmerka and Kathy Franey of the U.S.

"I felt really strong, and I think if I hadn't done what I did, I would have had a different strategy, maybe gone a little easier until the halfway point, then turned it on at the end," Hamilton said. "When I saw people whizz by me I said, 'Oh no, I can't believe what I just did.'"

In other events, Jamaica's Juliet Cuthbert used a strong start to beat Gwen Torrence of the U.S. in the women's 60 metres, finishing in 7.14 seconds.

Olympic heptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the U.S. finished fourth in the 60 metres, saying she was more concerned with sharpening her sprinting speed for the heptathlon than winning.

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Harding, Kerrigan to meet on the ice in Winter Olympic Games

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Tonya Harding vs. Nancy Kerrigan on the ice in Norway.

If it comes off, it will undoubtedly be one of the most dramatic confrontations in Olympic history. If it doesn't, the glamour event of the Winter Olympics will lose much of its sizzle.

Right now, it's still on, even though a U.S. Figure Skating Association panel called for a disciplinary hearing against Harding. The panel said Saturday that it found "reasonable grounds" to believe she was involved in the attack on Kerrigan at the national championships in Detroit a month ago.

Rather than boot Harding from the Olympic team, the association passed the decision on to the USOC along with a "black book" containing nearly 400 pages of affidavits, court documents and other evidence gathered independently by the panel.

Virtually all of that information is in the hands of prosecutors in Portland, Ore., who have not charged Harding in a plot that has already brought a guilty plea by her ex-husband Jeff Gillooly and confessions by three other men.

Harding met for more than two hours Sunday with her lawyer but neither had any comment on the meeting.

Claire Ferguson, president of the USFSA, carefully followed the rules of the association in not suspending Harding prior to the disciplinary hearing.

"I would prefer to have Tonya have her time with the hearing panel, to follow through and to make sure she's had her chance to speak with the member panel," Ferguson said Sunday.

Asked whether there were any conditions under which she might suspend Harding before the Olympics, Ferguson replied:

"No, because I believe that the Olympics has a different set of rules that can handle this if they so choose. We are concerned with our world championships as well as the Olympics, which will be held in Japan in the middle of March, and we must have our team there."

Bill Hyhl, chairman of the five-member USFSA panel and a former USOC president, acknowledged that the fear of a lawsuit by Harding was a factor in the association's judgement to proceed conservatively.

The USOC is expected to convene its games administrative board within two weeks in Norway to determine Harding's status, and a decision to throw her off the team would be final — even if Harding refuses to testify at the hearing.

In an interview Sunday with CBS, USOC Executive Director Harvey Schiller said there were "issues of conduct, sportsmanship and others to be considered."

Among those issues, Schiller said, was Harding's admission that she learned of the plot after Kerrigan was clubbed on the right knee and knocked out of the U.S. figure skating championships Jan. 6 but did not immediately report the information to police.

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Gustafsson wins Dubai title

DUBAI (R) — Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden scored an upset victory over top seed Sergel Bruguera of Spain to win the \$1 million Dubai Open tennis tournament in straight sets late Sunday.

Gustafsson, seeded four, swept aside the strangely out-of-sorts Spaniard 6-4, 6-2 to pick up the \$144,000 winner's cheque.

Aid afterwards he revealed that his recent run of improved play could be the result of the transcendental meditation which he practices for 20 minutes, twice a day.

"I don't know if it is that," he said, "but these days I am certainly feeling full of energy and very relaxed."

Bruguera must have known it was not going to be his day after a lacklustre start which saw him quickly fall 4-1 behind in the opening set.

Gustafsson, who has started

1994 in excellent form winning in Auckland and reaching the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, executed an array of tremendous forehands which the French Open champion could not answer. "In one period of four games he won only one point."

Although Bruguera responded after Gustafsson let some points slip with double-faults and a few clumsy returns, the Sweden never lost the initiative.

The second set continued in much the same vein with Gustafsson cutting loose to win four straight games after the opening four games were evenly shared.

Bruguera had a chance to come back in the sixth game but frittered away two break points and instead of levelling at 3-3 he was trailing 2-4 and staring inevitable defeat in the face.

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Gustafsson, who has started

GOREN' BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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NOT QUITE A STARRING LEAD

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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EAST: ♠ A Q J 6 4

SOUTH: ♠ 5 4

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait reopens air base destroyed in war

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Monday reopened the second of its two air bases after repairing extensive damages inflicted on it by Iraq, commanders more than three years ago. Brigadier General Salwa Al-Sayid, commander of the air force, told the Associated Press the first phase of repairs on Ahmad Al Jaber base has cost the government \$100 million. He would not say how much more was needed to complete the job. The base, 75 kilometres west of Kuwait City, was 95 per cent destroyed during the Gulf war. The emirate reopened its only other base, Al Udayd, Jan. 17 to mark the third anniversary of the U.S.-led coalition's air campaign to free Kuwait from Iraqi troops. Gen. Salwa said the air force also will keep a base it has been using at the international airport since liberation. Kuwait has earmarked \$12 billion to spend in the next decade on rebuilding and strengthening its small military which was devastated by the occupation and the Gulf war. But the plan has yet to be sanctioned by parliament.

Israeli archaeologists find sunken treasure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli archaeologists have found a sunken treasure of 2,000-year-old Greek coins off the coast of northern Israel, the antiquities authority said on Monday. More than 4,000 silver coins bearing the likeness of the Greek Emperor Ptolemy VI were found. The authority said the coins, weighing a total of more than 40 kilograms, went down with one of the merchant ships that sailed the Eastern Mediterranean in the first and second centuries BC. The coins were minted around the year 145 BC. Yaacov Sharvit, who led the underwater archaeological team, said he believes the coins were being transported from Egypt northwards, either to buy slaves or to pay soldiers' wages.

Another \$35m for Jewish settlers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government has decided to pour another \$35 million into Jewish settlements on occupied territory to improve security, settlers' leaders announced Monday. Reserve army General Yossef Koller, security chief for the West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements where some 120,000 Israelis live, said the decision was taken because the communities were now "on the frontline." Among the improvements would be the setting up of "distress centres" to which all settler cars would be linked by a red alert button in event of attack.

Iraqi train hits bus; 27 die, driver survives

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A train slammed into a packed bus on a level crossing just south of here at the weekend, killing 27 passengers and injuring 10 others, the Defence Ministry daily reported Monday. The bus driver miraculously survived as his vehicle was sliced in two by the train which was heading for Baghdad from the southern city of Basra on Saturday night. The line between Basra and Baghdad was closed Sunday because of the accident, which happened 35 kilometres south of here, said the newspaper, Al Qadisiyah. Several of the injured were in serious condition.

Rafsanjani opens artillery factory

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened an artillery factory in the Iranian capital on Monday, the official news agency IRNA reported. The factory builds 122-millimetre artillery guns, which have a range of 22 kilometres and can fire six or seven shells per minute, it said. Defence Minister Mohammad Reza Jahangiri and other military officials accompanied Mr. Rafsanjani during his visit.

Tunisian rights group chooses leaders

TUNIS (R) — A congress of Tunisia's Human Rights League (LUDH), one of the most active human rights groups in North Africa, chose a more moderate, government-backed leadership Monday. The congress decided with a narrow majority to abide by a 1992 law requiring it to open its membership to anyone who would like to join, though continue contesting it. The league's public campaign against human rights abuses in Tunisia in recent years brought it into conflict with the government which accused some of its leaders of using it for political goals. The new 25-member leadership includes 12 independents, a few representatives from the ruling and legal opposition parties and also two "progressive Islamists." The government is widely seen as having backed the winning list against the previous leadership which was dominated by independent, liberal and leftist figures and some prominent members of opposition parties.

Israel to show new missile in Singapore

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will present a new version of the Popeye air-to-surface missile at the Asian Aerospace Exhibition in Singapore this month, officials at the state-run Israeli Aircraft Industries said Monday. The Popeye II is a lighter, cheaper and smaller missile than the first model, which went into service with the Israeli and U.S. air forces nine years ago. The new weapon was successfully test fired from an F-16C fighter in December, the officials said. It costs \$300,000 — \$150,000 less than the old Popeye, for which total sales reached \$200 million. Israeli Aircraft Industries and the U.S. firm Martin Marietta manufacture the Popeye jointly.

Child killed in landmine blast in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — A 10-year-old girl was killed and three other children wounded in a landmine explosion in South Lebanon on Monday, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers here said. Inaya Salama was playing with her brothers and sisters at the time, in a field near her home in Sawwane, a village bordering on Israel's self-declared "security zone," east of the port of Tyre. One of her brothers, three-year-old Khalil, was seriously wounded. It was not immediately clear whether the landmine had been left behind after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon or placed there recently. Soldiers serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are deployed in Sawwane.

Paraglider remanded for a week

LONDON (R) — An American who paraglided onto the roof of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace in a bizarre stunt, which raised fresh concerns about royal security, was remanded in custody for a week on Monday, court officials said. James Miller, 30, who paraglided into the roof at a Las Vegas hotel complex during a world heavyweight boxing title fight last November, was arrested within minutes of stripping naked on the palace roof in freezing weather on Saturday. Mr. Miller, whose middle name was given as Farnham and his address as Nevada, stated ahead during the three-minute hearing in which he faced one public order offence and five aviation offences. Eyewitnesses said that after Mr. Miller landed he threw off all his clothes to reveal his naked body painted green below the waist, ran to the front of the palace and gave a clenched fist victory salute.

Man threatens to freeze Siberian city

MOSCOW (AP) — A man who threatened to blow up a Siberian city's heating plants and freeze its citizens was arrested after police decided his extortion attempt was a bluff, authorities said Monday. Last Friday, the man demanded \$500,000 in U.S. cash and 500 million rubles, worth an additional \$320,000 at current exchange rates, to leave the city of Yakutsk in peace. He claimed to represent a gang called Vozmezhdie (revenge) and said bombs had been planted at vital facilities across the city of 200,000 people, including its central heating plants, amid sub-zero temperatures.

Vietnam hands over 12 MIA remains

HANOI (AP) — Four days after the United States lifted a 19-year economic embargo against Vietnam, Hanoi on Monday turned over what are believed to be the remains of 12 Americans lost in the Vietnam war.

U.S. officials said that the ceremony at Hanoi's Noi Bai international airport had been planned weeks before the lifting of the embargo and that the timing was a coincidence. There have been similar ceremonies about every two months in the past.

Just the same, this one took on added significance since President Bill Clinton had made the lifting of the embargo contingent on Hanoi's cooperation and progress in the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing in action (MIA).

Vietnam groups and families of those missing in action had strongly opposed the end of the embargo, saying the United States would lose its leverage in forcing Vietnam to cooperate in accounting for 2,238 American MIAs.

But the United States withheld some carrots, the biggest of which is the restoration of diplomatic ties, broken when communist North Vietnam took over the U.S.-backed south in April 1975.

The U.S. also did not immediately grant Hanoi most favoured nation trade status, which would lower tariffs on Vietnamese imports.

Vietnam is now pushing for diplomatic recognition. Just after President Clinton announced the end of the economic sanctions, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai called a news conference in Hanoi and pledged that Vietnam would continue cooperating in trying to resolve the cases of those Americans still unaccounted for.



Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz (third from right) and German Ambassador Heinrich Reimers Monday sign agreements on German aid and loans to Jordan (AFP photo)

Germany to provide JD 33m in loans, aid

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany will provide Jordan with DM 82.6 million marks (JD 33 million) soft loans and grants to help finance a number of development projects in the Kingdom, under the terms of two financial agreements and two memoranda signed by the two sides in Amman Monday.

Under the first agreement, Germany will give Jordan DM 76.39 million (JD 30.5 million) in soft loans to help finance a sewerage project in Irbid. The project entails laying sewer networks and installing two waste-water treatment plants to serve the southern regions of Irbid and 15 nearby villages.

Under the second agreement, Germans will give Jordan a DM 2 million (JD 800,000) to help finance a water project in the Amman region and will also provide consultancy services for the project.

Two subsequent agreements were signed with the German development bank, which will handle the grant and the loan.

The first of the two memoranda provides for

Germany to grant Jordan DM 2.7 million (JD 1.28 million) in technical assistance which entails training of hospital cadres for two years.

This project will be carried out in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

The trainees will be oriented in maintaining hospital equipment which will be provided by Germany.

The second memorandum provides for Germany to spend DM 1.8 million (JD 720,000) on an extension programme for training personnel in the field of renewable energy which is being implemented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

Under the two-year programme, Germany will help Jordan develop the manufacture of solar heaters and will set up a laboratory and help the RSS improve solar and wind energy generation.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and German Ambassador Heinrich Reimers.

Juppe scheduled to visit Jordan Feb. 12

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is scheduled to pay a 24-hour visit to Amman next week to complete discussions with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations, diplomatic sources said Monday.

It will be the second visit of Mr. Juppe since November, the sources noted. During that visit, Mr. Juppe spent only a few hours in Amman and did not have enough time for a detailed exchange of views with Jordanian leaders and hence the return visit, the sources added.

Mr. Juppe is anxious to have more detailed discussions with the Jordanian leadership on the regional peace negotiations as well as Jordanian-French relations," said one of the sources.

Mr. Juppe is scheduled to arrive on Feb. 12 afternoon and leave the following day evening, the source said.

The French minister hopes to be received by His Majesty King Hussein in addition to his scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials, the source said.

On the table for discussions will be "economic and technical cooperation" between Jordan and France as well as the Kingdom's estimated \$900 million debt to France, the source said.

"Preparations for a meeting of the Paris Club (of creditor governments) will also be discussed," said the source, referring to the next round of Jordan's talks with the group on rescheduling part of the Kingdom's \$6.8 billion foreign debt.

France has been supportive

of Amman's endeavours to reschedule its debts and has backed the Kingdom at various international forums.

Following his Nov. 17 talks with King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Amman, Mr. Juppe said he found Jordan ready and willing to launch regional economic cooperation as part of the peace process.

He said he appreciated the Jordanian approach and pledged that his country would continue its contribution to the workings of the multilateral phase of the peace process.

France-Jordanian cooperation in the international scene will also be discussed during Mr. Juppe's forthcoming visit, the diplomatic source said.

"Various international issues, particularly the conflict in Bosnia, will also be discussed in detail," said the source, noting that the recent escalation of violence in former Yugoslavia needed a concerted approach.

France has been calling for expanding the mandate of the U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia to include the use of force to stop the fighting there.

Mr. Juppe will head for Israel from Jordan for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli leaders for discussions on the 28-month-old Middle East peace negotiations.

He will also meet with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for discussions that would include French help to support the implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Ekeus: Two more months to destroy Iraq chemicals

KUWAIT (AP) — The leader of a U.N. mission probing Iraq's military capabilities said Monday he was satisfied with the progress made towards eliminating most of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

But the U.N. special commission's chief, Rolf Ekeus, said the inspectors needed at least two more months to totally eliminate Iraq's stock of chemical weapons and the capability to produce them.

Mr. Ekeus spoke to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Kuwait. He came here after a trip to Iraq to install a long-term monitoring system of Iraqi weapons production sites.

"We have a satisfactory feeling that most of Iraq's capabilities have now been identified and eliminated," said Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat.

He said his commission was "confident that all the long-range missiles which remained after the Gulf war have been accounted for and destroyed."

The U.N. Special Commission has been supervising the destruction of Iraqi stores of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

A stifling trade embargo imposed against Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until Mr. Ekeus certifies to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has fulfilled its ceasefire obligations.

After resistering for two years, Iraq only in November accepted U.N. Resolution 715, which commits it to the long-term weapons monitoring plan.

Suspects reenact bungled attempt to murder Sedki

CAIRO (AP) — Radicals managed to set off a car bomb near Prime Minister Atef Sedki only after a series of bungles and small bribes to a corrupt policeman, prosecution evidence showed Monday.

Prosecutors showed a videotaped reenactment of the crime at the military court trial of 15 suspected extremists charged with trying to kill Dr. Sedki last November.

Two defendants, Sayed Suleiman and Essam Mohammad Touni, were shown as they traced their misadventures with a rattletrap car and traffic police before the bomb was detonated, Mr. Sedki escaped injury in the blast, but an 11-year-old girl was killed.

The defendants, six of whom are at large and being tried in absentia, face death penalties. Security authorities have barred foreign reporters from covering the trial but allowed Egyptian journalists to supply reports.

According to the tape, a traffic policeman stopped the men as they drove into Cairo because their car was old and battered. When he asked for car papers, they offered a 100-Egyptian pound (\$30) bribe. He accepted but still demanded proof of ownership.

They agreed to find the previous owner, but by the time they returned the policeman had taken the car for a joy ride. He came back four hours later, accepted another 30

pounds (\$8) and let them go. There was no mention in the video of Sayed Ahmad Yehia, the auto broker who sold the car to Mr. Suleiman. He was to have been a witness at the trial but was killed by suspected militants Friday (see page 2).

In the reenactment, Mr. Suleiman and Mr. Touni explained how they met with colleague Ahmad Ismail Othman the morning after they finally made it into Cairo.

After making sure the car explosive was rigged, the men took up positions along Mr. Sedki's usual route from his house, aiming to trigger the bomb as his convoy passed.

Mr. Othman, who is at large, was to be the lookout man and signal Mr. Suleiman to push the button. But he was chased away by a policeman suspicious of his lurking in the area.

When Mr. Touni arrived as the second lookout, Dr. Sedki's convoy was already underway. He gave the signal too late, and the bomb missed its target. But the blast outside a school killed the 11-year-old student.

The tape also showed Mr. Suleiman and Mr. Touni explaining how they got instructions from a man identified only as Ahmad in a telephone call from Yemen. Egypt has recently coordinated efforts with Yemen to detain suspected Egyptian militants hiding there.

COLUMN

Psst, EU wants employees to keep more secrets

BRUSSELS (AP) — Psst want to know a secret? The European Union (EU) is trying to keep more of them, and some Eurocrats aren't too happy about it. The Union — the European Community's new name — is taking its first, tentative steps toward creating a common foreign and security policy among its dozen members. And it has decided that just like any government, it doesn't want employees blabbing sensitive information. So officials have come up with a plan to stamp classified documents: "Top secret," "secret," "confidential" or "restricted."

They are also demanding security clearances for about 370 of the 2,200 bureaucrats who work for the Council of Ministers, the most influential of the many EU institutions. The secrecy proposal was prepared after the group's new treaty on European Union went into effect last November. Under the treaty, the nations will forge common foreign, security and, eventually, defence policies. They also promised better coordination in fighting terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. Under current rules, the distribution of documents can be limited, although the tendency in recent years has been to get away from restrictions. Officials argue that secrecy is needed to protect sensitive information now that the union is tackling more foreign and security issues. But council employees fear this may arbitrarily and unnecessarily restrict information. Definitions for classifying documents were so vague they would "open the door to all kinds of dangerous manipulations," of information, said Gunther Lorenz, vice president of an EU employees' committee. He told a recent news conference that politicians could be protected from public criticism under the proposed rules.

Senator goes on trial for official misconduct

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Just months after a landslide victory, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison will stand trial on criminal charges of misusing her former office of state treasurer and then trying to cover it up. Facing the possibility of conviction and imprisonment, Mrs. Hutchison, a rising Republican star, has denied doing anything wrong "legally, morally, or ethically." She says she is a victim of Democrats who fear and resent her success. In four indictments, prosecutors from the Travis County district attorney's office say the real victims are state taxpayers cheated by Mrs. Hutchison. Mrs. Hutchison has been charged with using tax dollars for her personal and political gain when she was treasurer, a position she held from January 1991 to June 1993. Prosecutors say she ran political operations out of the treasury, using state employees and state computers on state time. When investigators learned of it, they say, she started changing permanent computer records to hide evidence. The indictments charge her with two felony counts and one misdemeanor count of official misconduct, and felony counts of tampering with a government record and tampering with physical evidence. Since the alleged offenses are being tried together, prosecutors say Mrs. Hutchison, if convicted on all counts, could face up to 20 years in prison. "This case is not about politics," said First Assistant District Attorney Steve McClellan. "This case is about ethics and honesty in government. It is not a politically motivated case. As the evidence comes out in trial, that will be apparent."

Vienna blackmailer threatens to poison sweets

VIENNA (AFP) — An Austrian blackmailer has threatened to leave poisoned sweets in play areas of the capital, Vienna, if he does not receive a huge ransom, officials said Sunday. The blackmailer, who made his threat via the mass-circulation newspaper Kronenzeitung, was reportedly targeting a specific supermarket group. Viennese authorities announced they would be carefully monitoring the city's parks and had already warned people not to eat any sweets found there.